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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021



Graduates Zariah Figueroa and Ashanti Ridley.

Photo by David Henry

Dean Technical celebrates graduation

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, the Dean Technical campus celebrated its graduation ceremony with a short event right on campus in the gymnasium. The event featured 39 graduates of the various technical

and vocational programs offered at the school. It was attended by the acting mayor, superintendent, and other dignitaries. Due to the uncertain weather, it was necessary to move the ceremony indoors.

Persistence in spite of pandemic theme of HCC Commencement

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated the classes of 2020 and 2021 on Saturday, June 5, with a virtual Commencement ceremony in which speakers stressed the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the fortitude of graduates who overcame them.

"You have accomplished something amazing during one of the most significant times in our world's history," President Christina Royal said in her introductory remarks. "It is my great pleasure to share this moment with you, a moment that celebrates not only an important milestone in your lives, but the resilience and determination you have demonstrated through a truly unbelievable time."

"There were high moments and low moments, and a whole lot of uncertain moments," she said, "But you kept going, and that is why you are here today."

The live-streamed event, broadcast on the HCC website and the college's social media channels, featured pre-recorded faculty and student speeches, musical performances, congrat-



Holyoke Community College celebrated commencement exercises last Saturday afternoon.

Submitted photo

ulatory messages, and a virtual procession of graduates.

HCC Commencement was cancelled in 2020 after the pandemic forced the college to transition to remote instruction. Although the 703 members of the class of 2020 received their diplomas last year, they did not receive an official public recognition until Saturday, where they were hailed alongside the 767 members of this year's graduat-

ing class.

"I believe the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be recorded in HCC history as two of the most extraordinary," said Royal. "In the midst of earning your degree, you had to pivot to completely different modes of learning. And you did so successfully. You faced uncertainty with compassion and perseverance, and you pushed forward with relentless spirit."

"There is no question that the last 18 months have been difficult and the losses have been profound," Royal said. "The time that was taken from you was beyond your control. What you take from it, however, that is up to you."

Keynote speeches were delivered by two members of the HCC faculty: Raúl Gutiérrez, of Holyoke, recipient of the 2021 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence; and Vanessa Martinez, of Holyoke, recipient of the 2020 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence.

Martínez, professor Anthropology and coordinator of the HCC Honors Program, encouraged graduates to engage their passions, find like-minded souls, and then "take action," to turn those passions into projects to help improve their communities.

"You are more than just survivors of a pandemic," she said, "ustedes son nuestros soñadores, nuestros innovadores, nuestra familia, nuestra comunidad y nuestro mundo – you are our dreamers, our inno-

vators, our family, our community, and our world."

In his speech, Gutiérrez, HCC associate professor of Spanish and Latinx Studies, invoked wisdom from "mi guelita María" – his grandmother – who always said, "Pórtate bien." The literal translation of that expression is "behave well," but Gutiérrez said it took him many years to understand what she really meant.

"For me now, pórtate bien is to carry yourself with compassion, love and solidarity toward humanity," Gutiérrez said. "Don't fake empathy. Live it! When you learn and embrace that you are sharing the world with other humans, you will truly succeed!"

"To the graduates of 2020 and 2021," he said, "you will be remembered as the class of the pandemic. I challenge you to strive for change. For the next chapter of your life, I challenge you to show up, speak up and stand up in all of your communities and in all of your endeavors – simply GIVE! If everyone 'se portara bien' like my gand-

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William Alicea points out toward his family and friends after receiving his diploma.

Photo by Shelby Macri

Holyoke grads beat the heat

By **Shelby Macri**
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School North Campus graduation ceremony took place on Sunday, June 6 and more than 250 seniors completed their high school journey and received their diplomas.

The weather on Sunday was bright and sunny without a cloud in the sky, causing a very hot day for the graduates, staff, and attendees of the graduation ceremony.

Acting Mayor Terence Murphy opted out of giving his speech so the passing of diplomas could start and the ceremony would be one step closer to ending. Since the heat was beating down on all in attendance Murphy wanted get people out of the sun as quickly as possible and didn't want to add to the length of the ceremony, making him the most valuable speaker of the day.

Berrios was the leading example of perseverance as he continued to sing and belt out notes regardless of the finicky microphone, which was

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In The News

Business group shares keys to success

By Shelby Macri
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HOLYOKE – City officials hosted a listening session partnered with Entrepreneurship-for-All, gathering nine business leaders to talk about their business.

The EforAll program accelerates economic and social impact in communities through inclusive entrepreneurship, it helps communities nationwide and has a main office in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The Executive Director of EforAll in Holyoke Tessa Murphy-Romboletti co-hosted the event and brought staff members Gabriella Candelario and Jayne Melendez.

EforAll offers programs for people wanting to start a business of any kind, they can help with funding and finding appropriate sources for funding; as well as showing business leaders book keeping, how to advertise, keeping up social media, connecting to the right lawyers, and more.

The nine business leaders that attended spoke about the help that the EforAll program has given them, especially after COVID-19 and the pandemic that ensued.

Acting Mayor Terence Murphy said the listening session was a chance to tell the community about the businesses in



EforAll mentor and local business owner Hope Ross Gibaldi speaks in front of other members Sandra Rubio, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, and Gabriella Candelario.

Holyoke as much as hearing about the EforAll program.

"Thank you for your commitment in



EforAll members Isaias Rosario and Juan Vasquez listen to Nicole Ortiz speak.

Photos by Shelby Macri



Paper City Clothing Company owner Katy Moonan talks about her business and the program.

Holyoke," said Murphy. "I'm trying to get you guys as much attention as possible. You'll have a chance to talk about your business and what you do, promote your business and talk about EforAll."

Murphy-Romboletti said EforAll is to help people start up their business and make sure they have the right connections, setting them up to be successful. EforAll offers programs and classes for people wanting to start their own business, they also give business leaders access to a mentor or three to help them in their journey. Each business leader present spoke about the help, access, and bond they have with their mentors from EforAll; many businesses had taken a class and were in a cohort in 2019.

Their mentors kept in contact with them throughout last year and the pandemic, helping and connecting in any way they could; each leader expressed their thanks for the mentors they connected with due to EforAll. Murphy-Romboletti mentioned that while helping business leaders is the main part of the job she enjoys, the fact that the business leaders are also community leaders is what makes the program and the people who take it that much better in Murphy-Romboletti's eyes.

One example of this is Hope Ross Gibaldi co-owner of Learn in Motion. It is a program to help kids to get active, socialize, and practice life skills. They offer different programs like sport classes, enrichment programming, training/counseling, and community events. Murphy-Romboletti is a graduate and former facilitator of another entrepreneurship program in Holyoke called SPARK. When the program ended, she joined EforAll as a mentor and found another mentoring group through

Murphy-Romboletti, Gibaldi is now a Community Engagement Manager at Valley Venture Mentors. Through EforAll Gibaldi was able to receive funding and grants, allowing her to buy needed equipment that she still uses to this day.

Another business leader that spoke about the helpful access to funding that EforAll provides was Sandra Rubio of Totally Baked 413; a cafe and bakery in Holyoke. They serve breakfast, lunch, and baked sweets along with custom made cakes and pastries.

Rubio spoke about how funding from EforAll helped her to buy a bigger mixer, allowing her to increase the amount and time of product output; which helped her business overall. Rubio said the shop recently opened custom cake orders as more and more weddings are being planned, she's receiving an influx of requests after making one post to the community and she's grateful for that.

Others spoke about funding, like Isaias Rosario of Infused Element, a start-up company that would offer cannabis infused products that are locally made and sold in the city. Rosario also hopes to sell some products to other local retail stores to further help the businesses in the community. He mentioned that while cannabis is a booming industry currently and the community is interested in it, it can be very difficult to get funding and start-up money but that EforAll has helped to point him in the right direction.

"I signed up for the program on the last day about two hours before they closed, a few hours later I got the call

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Mayoral candidate proposes 'clean government' pledge

HOLYOKE – Mayoral Candidate Mike Sullivan calls on all Holyoke mayoral candidates to join him and publicly pledge to reject all campaign contributions from outside special interests that are now trying to buy influence with next Mayor.

Sullivan said, "As we prepare for upwards of 2,500 new jobs coming to Holyoke to support the multi-million

dollar cannabis manufacturing industry that is rapidly emerging in our city, there are out-of-state interests looking to buy influence in the Mayor's office. I am calling on all the candidates for Mayor to pledge their support for 'clean government' in this campaign and reject any special interest money from outside our region, and if they have taken these contributions to either return them or donate

them to local charities.

"Alex Morse and his campaign team took campaign donations from special interest groups from as far away as New York, Washington DC and California. These special interest groups bought Alex Morse's time and attention – which is why he never had time to work on Holyoke's pressing issues – from our school system, our local economy,

our public safety, and our city's infrastructure. I will not let that happen in a Sullivan administration – and will not take any cannabis or special interest group money, period."

Sullivan says his team reviewed campaign contributions he may have taken in the past as a City Councilor from outside interests and all that money was donated to local Holyoke charities.

Summer learning and extended year programming begins Tuesday, July 6

HOLYOKE – The Summer Learning Academies, ¡Somos Exploradores! are high-quality, fun, engaging, and FREE learning opportunities for HPS Students in rising grades 1-8. All academies are offered in-person with some remote options. Programs start July 6 and Aug. 9. Register your student and visit our summer learning webpage for more information.

All students eligible for Extended School Year (ESY) services, per their IEPs, can register at the above link. Please register by June 1st to avoid transportation delays.

Contact your child's Special Education Team Leader (ETL) with questions. If you are unsure who to contact, please reach out to Jill Hughes to help connect you.

Lifeguard training and recertification classes available June 24 - 29

The Chicopee Parks Department is holding an American Red Cross lifeguard certification classes at the Chicopee Comp High School Pool. Classes will be held Thurs., June 24 - Tues., June 29 from (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.). Participants must attend all classes. This course will include certification in Lifeguard Training, CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and Community First Aid. This is a blended class and will consist of nine hours online and in person training. Participants must be 16 years of age on or before the end of the course. The Cost is \$260/Resident \$265/Non-resident.

Deadline to register is Monday June 14th.

Lifeguard Recertification class is being offered. The classes will take place on Wednesday June 30th, Thursday July 1st & Friday July 2 (8A M. – 3 P.M.) at the Chicopee Comp Pool. Costs: \$160/Resident \$165/Non-Resident. Deadline to register is today Tuesday, June 15th.

All participants for both classes must take a pre-skills test to be officially enrolled into the class. The Pool test will take place on Tuesday June 16th. 4:30 – 6:30Pm. at the CCHS pool. For more info or to register log on to www.chicopeecrec.com

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and filled out information to start classes. And I don't think I missed a single class," Rosario said. "It motivates you to do your business and it accelerates your business step by step."

Aside from the help in funding business leaders spoke highly of their mentors, and expressed that their mentors are their favorite outcome from EforAll aside from their successful business. Co-owners of 413 Family Fitness Juan and Elise Vasquez spoke highly of their mentors, with Juan mentioning that they called their mentor last week and will be calling again soon. The mentors create a bond with business leaders, with one leader saying that their mentor was there through everything and attended the grand opening, also telling their mentee to invite them to their wedding. Another business leader who raved about their mentor was Crave Food Truck and restaurant owner Nicole Ortiz.

Ortiz said she signed up for EforAll specifically because she wanted to open a food truck and had an idea of this business.

"EforAll really helped me, especially the mentors, they've helped me a lot and I can call on them anytime I need to this day," Ortiz said. "I would have opened a food truck no matter what but I don't know if I'd even be open today if I hadn't had the support and encouragement from EforAll." After successfully opening her food truck and having it become a big hit in the community Ortiz opened a restaurant and isn't done there. Murphy-Romboletti commended Ortiz as a community leader as she wants to help create a program for High Street and downtown Holyoke.

Murphy-Romboletti said they are working to create some sort of group business program, and they are working with the Chamber of Commerce for a beautification of downtown, more trash receptacles available on the street to help with littering, and more public safety in the area. Ortiz and Murphy-Romboletti want to put the work into creating downtown a destination place for the city, and bring more attention and tourism to that side of town.

Murphy said the mayor's office is always accepting people and his door is always open; while he wonders when he'll start meeting with people and do other work he recognizes that hearing from the public and trying to find a way to help them; is what the position of mayor is about.

Other businesses in attendance were Alex Saldana of Star Dancers Unity, a dance studio in the city providing low-income families affordable after school environment. One that is safe and where kids can enhance their dancing, meet new friends, and stay active. Liam Malone of UAC Holyoke also attended, speaking about the Uprising Agricultural Cooperative; a hydroponic vegetable producer. Malone has a commitment to co-op values of community enrichment and aims to promote hydroponic growing through innovative uses of vertical designs.

The listening session was covered by Holyoke Media so that people at home could listen in on the benefits of EforAll, people who are interested in hearing the whole listening session can go to Holyoke Media at <https://holyokemedia.org> and people can also learn more about programs and the general outlook of EforAll at <https://eforall.org>.

Freedom Credit Union partners with food bank

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is collecting cash donations at its 11 branches throughout the region to benefit The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, which leads the fight against food insecurity throughout Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties. They are accepting donations through Saturday, July 31.

"Food insecurity is more prevalent than you might expect," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "More than 100,000 people across the region's four counties are in need of support, especially as we all continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. As an institution, we are proud to raise awareness and funds to help the food bank provide for those in need."

Since 1982, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has helped provide much needed food to area residents. They source their products from donations and then supply it to participating pantries, meal sites and shelters throughout the region. Their work allows individuals, families, seniors, children, veterans and people with dis-

abilities to lead healthy and meaningful lives.

Based on the donations received in their previous fiscal year, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts was able to provide the equivalent of 12.3 million meals, a significant increase over previous years.

"You don't need to donate a lot to make a difference—any amount helps to make a significant impact in ensuring that your neighbors have enough to eat," added Welch. "A \$1 donation to the food bank can actually provide up to four meals for those in need. We can all work together to create a hunger-free western Massachusetts."

Throughout the months of June and July, Freedom Credit Union employees and members, as well as the community at large, are invited to make monetary donations in support of this cause at any Freedom branch. All funds collected during this time will directly benefit The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

A Freedom branch is located in Chicopee at 1976 Memorial Dr.

City garden tour planned

HOLYOKE – There will be a Holyoke Garden Tour held on Saturday, June 19. It's a self-tour and costs \$15 to participate and will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can pick up a map and a wrist bracelet from the Gateway City Arts anytime between 9:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. You can bike or drive the garden tour and you must follow all current Massachusetts state COVID-19 protocols when you are on any garden premises. If there is inclement weather, the tour will be moved back a week to Saturday, June 26. For more information, go to www.eventbrite.com. Participants will sign a liability

release form upon pickup of their map and wristband. Some areas have uneven footing and steps. There will be eight gardens to view. Six are flower and woodland gardens and two are vegetable gardens. Gateway City Arts is located at 92 Race Street.



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Homework House announces summer program for children

HOLYOKE — It's once again time for summer fun and learning at Homework House's Summer Readers and Leaders Program. This year's program will begin on Tuesday, July 6, and will end on Friday, Aug. 6. The program will run each week Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to all children who will be entering 2nd-5th grades and is free to all who attend. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Summer Readers and Leaders will take place at Homework House, 340 Chestnut Street in Holyoke. Over the five

weeks, the program will focus on helping young readers develop and improve their basic literacy skills in small groups with credentialed reading teachers. Children will be guided in group and individualized literacy activities every morning. Afternoons will be filled with fun summer activities, indoors and outdoors such as arts & crafts, cooperation games, board games, and computer time. Weekly trips to the library and field trips will round out the summer.

Homework House will also offer a new middle school program for those

going into Grade 6th – 8th. Children will be welcomed to an engaging literacy routine in the morning, and then academic and career readiness activities in the afternoon which will include exploratory college and career preparation as well as virtual meetings with college students. This program will be offered at Homework House's site at 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke.

Both programs include breakfast, lunch, and a snack - critically important at a time when many of the children would otherwise go hungry.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 to 12, from the Holyoke Public Schools. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. Today, it offers services from three different locations in Holyoke. Tutors, many of whom are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children's educational learning and retention.

To register for the program or for more info, please call 413-887-2012 or email HHstaff@HomeworkHouseHolyoke.org.

COVID-19 testing extended

HOLYOKE — Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through September, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

However, effective June 1, testing will move to Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation on the opposite side of campus.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last August to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H (or to parking lot M after June 1). There are signs and parking attendants on site to help guide traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

Planning Board gives approval for Farr Alpaca Mill plan

HOLYOKE — The Holyoke Planning Board recently gave site plan approval to Winn Development for their plan to construct 88 residential units in the former Farr Alpaca Mill complex at 216 Appleton Street. The project is a partnership between Winn and the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority. Winn has a stellar reputation in the conversion of historic properties into modern housing and will invest \$35 million

to construct 76 one-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom apartments. The project is utilizing federal and state historic tax credits along with housing tax credits. Next to the Holyoke Police Station and across the street from Holyoke Heritage State Park, this project will compliment other redevelopment projects in the area including the Massachusetts Green High-Performance Computing Center and HCC Culinary Arts Institute.

WSU to offer SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University will offer multiple sessions of its SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students, starting June 14.

In partnership with Educational Testing Consultants Inc., the SAT Online Summer Institute provides 20 hours of live, online instruction offered in multiple formats, including a condensed two-week session. Multiple sessions will be held, making it convenient for students to choose the time and format that works best for them to study and develop the essential test-taking skills needed to do

well on the exam. Students receive an in-depth review of the exam content, strategies for improving their scores, and a comprehensive study plan.

The cost of the SAT Online Summer Institute is \$499, which includes all books and materials as well as access to online resources through the end of the year. For more information, contact Brandon Fredette at bfredette@westfield.ma.edu or 413-572-8033. To register online for any of the available sessions, visit www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep.

Department of Children and Families seeks volunteers

REGION — Volunteers are needed from Western Massachusetts to help review cases involving children who are placed in the custody of the state.

The Foster Care Review Unit makes decisions regarding children who are placed in foster care for six months or longer, assessing how well their needs are being met and what progress has been made toward establishing them in a permanent living situation. A Volunteer from the Community is one

member of the three-person panels that make these decisions.

Foster Care Reviews typically last 30 to 90 minutes and are being conducted remotely during the pandemic. Volunteers need to be 18 years or older and must participate in pre-service training that is currently being conducted remotely. For an application and further information, please contact Lashanda Stone at Lashanda.Stone@Mass.Gov.

School enrollment now open

HOLYOKE — Do you have a child who will be 5 on or before Sept. 1? It's time to enroll in kindergarten.

Enrollment forms are now online. Visit www.enrollholyoke.com to start the enrollment process for your child. If you need any assistance, call (413) 534-2000, option 1.

Preschool Program. We also have full-day and half-day openings in our Preschool Program. Contact the

Enrollment Center at (413) 534-2000, option 1 to help you get started with your child's placement and enrollment forms. Learn more.

Dual Language Program. We still have spaces available for Spanish-speaking and bilingual students entering preschool through seventh grade. You can learn more about the program in this video. Contact the Enrollment Center for more information.

Free lunch for veterans begins June 1

AGAWAM — A free lunch for veterans (plus one guest) will be served on a monthly basis beginning Tuesday, June 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St. Feeding Hills. Future luncheons will be held on the first Tuesday of every month (same location and time).

The Agawam Lions Club is pleased to partner with the Building Bridges Veterans Initiative, a program of the Episcopal Diocese of Western

Massachusetts, to provide these meals. Building Bridges luncheons are offered on a monthly basis in other local communities as well. For more information, please visit <https://www.buildingbridgeswma.com>. Please help us spread the word to veterans, families, and friends in our community. It is our pleasure to serve you!

For more information on the Agawam Lions Club and our upcoming community events and service projects, please visit us on Facebook or at www.agawamlions.org.

HCC celebrates nursing graduates

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 43 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 27.

The students were recognized during a virtual pinning ceremony during which they were formally inducted into the health care field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin from a registered nurse, and recite the Nightingale Pledge. This year,

because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, HCC celebrated the graduates of HCC's ASN program virtually. Earlier in the day, however, students stopped by HCC's Center for Health Education & Simulation to receive their pins and candles and celebrate in person with nursing faculty and staff.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will not sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses. Holyoke students graduating included: Shaun Connor, Brianna Ecklin-Fournier, Mildred Lefebvre

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Feeding Hills store offering vaccines for ages 12 to 15

QUINCY – Stop & Shop, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), today announced that select pharmacy locations across the Northeast are now offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines in addition to existing supply of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which have been available in Stop & Shop Pharmacy locations since January 2021. On May 12, the CDC authorized expanded use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 12 and older, and United States PREP Acts authorizes Stop & Shop's qualified pharmacists to administer vaccines to this expanded age group.

In addition to the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, customers can now walk in or schedule an appointment on Stop & Shop's website to receive a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at select locations, though availability for walk-ins will be determined by store supply levels. Stop & Shop's over 250 pharmacy locations are currently offering Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine availability varies by store, and customers should visit the Stop & Shop COVID-19 website at www.stopandshop.com/covid-vaccine for information on specific vaccine availability near them.

"Stop & Shop has been proud to support our communities throughout the pandemic, most recently by administering the COVID-19 vaccine," said Katie Thornell, Director of Pharmacy Operations at Stop & Shop. "We are excited to begin providing

the Pfizer vaccine to our customers as young as twelve years of age to help protect members of the community against COVID-19."

Written consent from a parent or guardian is required for a trained and trusted Stop & Shop pharmacist to administer the Pfizer vaccine to anyone aged 12 to 18. Additionally, Stop & Shop will require patients under 16 to be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative to be vaccinated.

In December, Stop & Shop announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to be among the first COVID-19 vaccine providers, making the shot available to its customers across the Northeast. The coronavirus vaccine is being administered at no out-of-pocket cost.

During immunization, customers will be required to wear PPE and pharmacists will be equipped with masks, gloves, and face shields. The pharmacy team utilizes the same thorough disinfection protocols for all patients, disinfecting and sanitizing between each patient to ensure the health & safety for all patients.

Flu, pneumonia, shingles and other immunizations are currently available to customers at all Stop & Shop Pharmacy locations. To find your nearest Stop & Shop pharmacy, visit www.stopandshop.com/pharmacy. For more information on Stop & Shop's rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.stopandshop.com/covid-vaccine.

Summer concerts are back

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Elderly are bringing back its free Summer Concert Series.

To start the three Concert Series the Old Country Road Band with Director Ron Jackson on June 15. On July 20, the Dan Kane Singers will impress with their talented voices and Aug. 17 the great Johnny and the Flashbacks will finish the concert series.

All concerts will be held at the Dufresne Park, Kendall St. in Granby, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Please bring your chairs, refresh-

ments and bug spray. Remember to observe all COVID-19 restrictions that are applicable.

The Friends of Granby Elderly, Inc. is a non-profit organization and its main purpose is to provide support and entertainment for the Granby Council of Aging adult population and surrounding areas.

The Concert Series is supported by the Mass Cultural and Arts Council and the Granby Cultural and Arts Council.

For more information, call 413-467-3352.

Drive-in at the Big E Fairgrounds to show new releases and classic films

WEST SPRINGFIELD – West Springfield Drive-In, in partnership with Eastern States Exposition, will be opened April 23 on The Big E Fairgrounds. The drive-in will feature two 45' by 60' screens and be able to accommodate 300 cars each, in a safe and socially distant family experience. The drive-in, located in the Gate 9 parking area, is authorized to show new release content, once available, as well as special livestream concerts and other events.

The drive-in is open on weekends through the springtime and then seven days per week during the summer season through Labor Day and movies will begin at a time consistent with sunset. Closing for The Big E, scheduled Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, the drive-in will then reopen October through December for holiday themed experiences. Movies will be announced weekly and ticket sales will be available at the time of the announcement. In addition, a full concession stand will also be available for

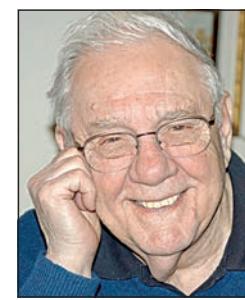
guests to not only enjoy popcorn, but popular Fair foods such as fried dough, fried Oreos, and cotton candy.

"We are pleased to bring this safe and socially distant family experience to the residents of West Springfield and the surrounding communities," said EJ Dean, President, FestEvents. "During the global pandemic, we successfully operated several drive-in theaters across the state of Massachusetts and we are grateful our partner, the Eastern States Exposition, is maximizing the use of the fairground space for the benefit of those in the community."

"Some may recall the Memorial Drive-In, just down the street. We are delighted to carry on that tradition of safe, family fun and look forward to working with EJ and the FestEvent team," said Gene Cassidy, Eastern States Exposition President and CEO.

Please visit www.wsdrivein.com for details or connect on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westspringfielddrivein>.

James Arthur Ubertalli



HOLYOKE – James Arthur Ubertalli peacefully departed this life Thursday, May 27, 2021 at his home with his family by his side.

Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, November 4, 1928, the son of James "Jack" and Christine (Demers) Ubertalli, he attended Holyoke Public Schools and Williston Academy, and earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Entomology from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. While working in Atlanta as a technical advisor for Orkin Exterminating, he met his wife, Barbara. The young couple lived in Texas for a few years where they developed a life-long passion for Mexican food, music and culture. Jim and his young family returned to New England where he continued his work in entomology as a manager for Terminix Industries. He also worked as a graduate entomologist serving the Baystate Medical System Environmental Services team as educator, technician and lecturer and retiring in 2003.

The call to serve led Jim to join the U.S. Army ROTC while a student at UMass. He was a tank commander headed to Korea when the Pentagon recruited him, because of his entomological expertise, to be a technical advisor for the Army Medical Services Corps. Jim served in the Army Reserves for 28 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Among the many leadership positions he held, he was most proud of his role on the faculty of The United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the renowned graduate military college. In recent years, he found immense pride and camaraderie with a new band of brothers at the American Legion Post 351 and served as District Historian.

His quiet affability and keen sense of humor earned him many friends. Jim was proud of his hometown, Holyoke, and was called upon and gladly served in

many volunteer capacities including Sunday School teacher and deacon of the Second Congregational Church, fire commissioner, youth hockey coach and scoutmaster of Troop 670 where he mentored many Eagle Scouts. He was also a lifelong sports fan and enjoyed some glory as starting center for Holyoke High football and Williston Academy where he was part of the school's celebrated undefeated team, the first in fifty years.

In retirement, he spent time oil painting WWII aircraft and birds, reading voluminous historical accounts on the American Civil War and WWII and traveling with his family annually to Disneyworld and other far-flung destinations.

Jim will be remembered by the lives he touched for his warm kindness, gentle sense of humor and keen interest in learning and sharing what he had learned.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara, his daughter Donna Lee and son Jimmy and daughter-in-law Harriet, his grandchildren Sophia and George, his brother Don, nieces Linda and JoAnne and nephew Jack.

Exceptional in his humility, passionately proud and loyal to his friends and family, he will be dearly missed.

A Funeral Home Service was held for Jim on Friday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home, 2049 Northampton Street, Holyoke followed by Committal with Military Honors at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main Street, Agawam. Calling hours were held on Thursday, June 3 from 4 to 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of James A. Ubertalli to support cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via www.jimmyfund.org/gift.

DEATH NOTICE

**UBERTALLI,
JAMES ARTHUR**
Died: May 27, 2021
Funeral Home Service
June 4 at 9:30 a.m.
Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home

OBITUARY POLICY: Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$89, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Poetry Corner

**Be Different,
Be Yourself**

by Thomas J. Kennedy

*Be different, be yourself
True to that creative image
Beyond the mind, heart and soul.
Be different. Be yourself.*

*Be different, be yourself;
Draw on your dancing dreams;
Where night and day meet
in moon sun's lapping waters,
Where pulsating skin fills
the warmth of love.*

*Some say run when I should walk.
Some say speak when I should listen.
Forget the masters of past nights
and welcome the dawn of self pride.*

*For you are different
and you should be yourself.
Don't hurt a friend,
or an environmental end.*

*Look beyond the title and see
the being, just a human being ...
For you are different
and you should be yourself.
Others first — divine forever.*



Guest Column

A Wilderness Experience

By Ken Blanchard

**Faith
Matters**

I love to get away and connect with God through nature. Nothing beats being out deep in the woods, by a waterfall or a quiet pond, and soaking in the beauty all around you. That's my kind of wilderness experience. But in Biblical times the wilderness wasn't considered a place of rest – it was considered a dangerous place, full of unpleasantness. For example, after the Israelites crossed the Sea, God had them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. It wasn't for a relaxing vacation! After Jesus' baptism, he was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. In the story of his baptism, he had a vision of the Holy Spirit descending upon him in the appearance of a dove. But immediately after that "the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness." If at that point the Spirit was still in the form of a little bird, I imagine it was like a scene out of an Alfred Hitchcock movie, with the bird pecking at him and prodding Jesus to get out of there! The scripture says the Spirit "drove" him into the wilderness. Some translations say "immediately the Spirit forced him into the wilderness." Apparently, the wilderness was a place that even Jesus wouldn't want to go!

What compels us to go into the wilderness? What is the Holy Spirit asking us to face in terms of temptations, hardship, or difficulty, as Jesus surely faced while he was being tested for 40 days in the wilderness? What is "a wilderness experience" for us? Is it loneliness? Is it illness? Is it the current coronavirus pandemic? A wilderness experience for us may be any or all of these things, or it could be so many other things. The point is, like it was for Jesus, it can be a learning

experience. Whatever our particular wilderness experience may be, it's a challenging time during which we endure trials and tests. We may feel discouraged, because all the pleasant things of life are taken away, or at least cannot be enjoyed as they once were. It can be a time of intense spiritual attack. It doesn't mean we're doing anything wrong – it just means we are being brought to a time of God-ordained testing. It's a learning experience.

Even during our wilderness experiences, God is still with us. Jesus was physically weak from exhaustion and hunger, but he stayed strong against temptations by remembering God's word. Angels helped Jesus. Who are the angels that help us during our wilderness experiences? Maybe someone happened to say just the right thing to us. Maybe someone offered up a prayer on our behalf. Maybe we received the right kind of help at just the right time. Those are all examples of angels that God sends to tend to our needs. We also need to ask ourselves: can we be angels – ministering spirits – to others when they are having a wilderness experience? Of course we can! We just need to be aware, to stand ready as a ministering spirit without being intrusive. People go through wilderness experiences all the time. We can tend to needs, and be "angels" that show God is with us always.

Think of a wilderness experience you've had, or that you are living through now. What is God asking you to face? What can you learn? As believers, we are called to trust in God, to find peace and strength in the midst of trouble – those wilderness experiences – and through it all to grow in spiritual maturity in our walk with God. Amen.

**HOLYOKE
the Sun**

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Guest Column

Will my retirement benefits be cut because of my state pension?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I took early retirement at 20 years from the Louisiana public school system in 1996. Since then, I have continued to work in private schools, except for two years in public schools. I now have over 20 years in the Social Security system. Are they going to take money out of my tiny early state retirement check or lower my Social Security check? Is it true I can continue working and draw Social Security? I have reached full retirement age - I am 68. Signed: State Retiree

Dear State Retiree: There are 27 US states (including Louisiana) which, to varying degrees, do not require state employees to contribute to the federal Social Security program. Retirees in those states with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security, and who still earn enough Social Security credits (from other work) to be eligible

**SOCIAL
SECURITY
MATTERS**

ble for Social Security benefits, are affected by a regulation known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduces the amount of your Social Security payment. So, the answer to your question is yes, your Social Security benefit will be reduced as a result of your LA state pension and WEP (your LA retirement benefit won't be affected).

The amount of the reduction to your Social Security benefit will depend upon the number of years of "significant" earnings you have been contributing to the Social Security program. With 20 or fewer years of Social Security-covered earnings, you would incur the maximum WEP reduction, which is either a) 50% of your state pension amount, or b) the maximum WEP reduction for your "eligibility year" (the year you turned 62, which I believe was 2015). In the case of b), the maximum WEP reduction to your Social Security benefit would be \$413/month.

Since you say you have "over 20 years"

contributing to Social Security, be aware that the size of the WEP reduction to your Social Security will be smaller for each year over 20 that you have significant Social Security-covered earnings. For example, with 21 years of Social Security earnings, your WEP reduction would be \$371/month; with 25 years of Social Security contributions your WEP reduction would be \$206/month; and with 30 years of Social Security contributions, WEP would no longer apply. As you can see, the WEP reduction to your Social Security benefit decreases proportionally with each year over 20 that you have significant earnings and contribute to Social Security, and WEP disappears with 30 years of significant Social Security earnings.

Be aware that WEP will not affect you until you are collecting both your state pension and your Social Security benefit, and that for each full year you continue to work

See SECURITY, page 7

A Quote**OF NOTE**

*"The best way
to predict
your future
is to
create it."*

**Abraham
Lincoln**

**Letters to the
Editor Policy**

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Late spring questions for the Garden Lady

This question came from Peggy, who gardens in Belchertown: "I always enjoy reading your column, and finally I got up the nerve to ask you a question. Last year, and for the first time ever, I grew elephant's ears. Just as you said to do, I dug them up before the first frost. They looked so good, surprisingly, that I kept three of them in pots in a room on the north side of my house where they only received a bit of indirect sunlight each day. I watered them throughout the winter and they put out some new growth. When the danger of frost had passed, I brought them directly outside of the room they were in, figuring I would harden them off before planting them in the garden. Before long, however, the leaves yellowed, and turned



ROBERTA
MCQUAID
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COLUMNIST

brown in patches. Do you have a guess as to what happened?"

I am surmising your plants got scalded from the wind and/or the sun. The intensity of the light change from a nearly dark room to outdoors with the wind on top of that, likely shocked the plant. I recommend you cut back any foliage that is too far gone and move the pots to a very protected, shady area. With any hope, the plants will regrow and you will get some enjoyment out of them this summer. When frost threatens, unearth the tubers and store in them in a pot of vermiculite or wrap in paper and store in empty pots at fifty degrees. Pre-start them in a sunny window in late March and gradually acclimate to the outdoors in mid-May. Good luck!

Cutworms

Cutworms are a big problem right now. I have seen many in my own garden. Here is an updated version of answers to a question that ran a few years back, figuring you may find it useful.

I ran into my old friend Don at the dentist office when this question arose: "I planted a lot of cabbage a few weeks back and in the morning I notice that some of the plants are cut off, right at the base. What is doing this? I find it strange that they aren't exactly eaten, just lying there!"

The pest you mention is the dreaded cutworm. There is nothing more disappointing to visit the garden and see the pepper or broccoli plant that you nurtured indoors for weeks or months chopped down at the soil line in a single night and left there to with-

See GARDEN, page 7

GARDEN, from page 6

er in the sun. According to Barbara Pleasant in "The Gardener's Bug Book," (Storey Publishing \$14.95) cutworms are most active at night.



It is then that the moth larvae circle around the plant to grab a bite or two. Efficient as they are at eating, this snack is all they need for now, but left to their own devices they can ravage the garden of its tender seedlings in

just a few evenings. Cutworm collars are the first line of defense. Simply encircle them with strips of heavy paper buried a couple of inches deep. Pint-sized ice cream containers with the bottom cut or the waxy containers that soy milk or orange juice come in work great too and are easily cut to the right size with a pair of scissors. If you already lost a few plants, dig around in the soil next to them and chances are you'll find the soft, hairless caterpillar nearby. Be brave and squish it. Better yet feed it to your chickens, mine find them especially tasty. One wife's tale was to put a long nail next to the seedlings. I tried it once, still had cutworms, then had to get all the nails out of my garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenney@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

SECURITY, from page 6

and contribute to Social Security the WEP reduction will diminish. And since you've passed your full retirement age you can collect Social Security and work without your benefits being affected. But, in any case, you shouldn't delay claiming your Social Security benefit past age 70 because that is when your Social Security benefit will reach maximum.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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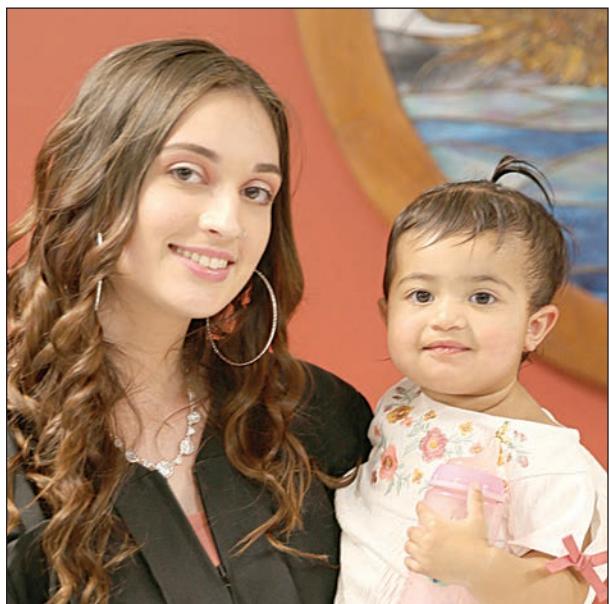
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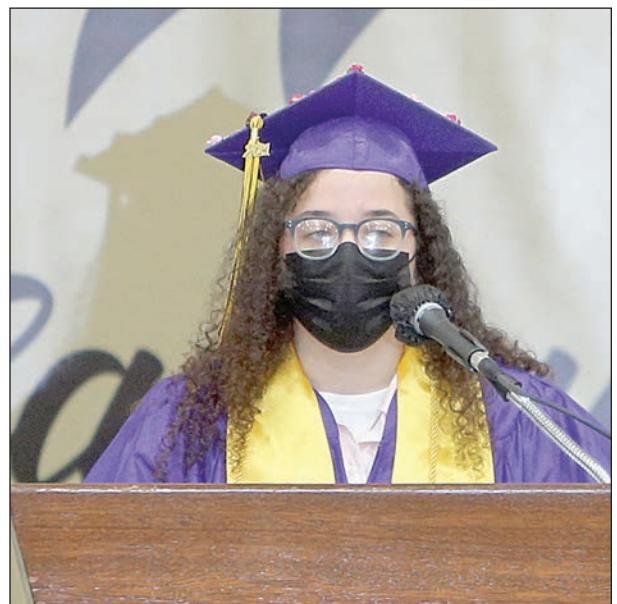
DEAN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



Dean Tech graduate Aaliyah Vatter and Tiana Rivera.



Marcus Tenesaca was the Valedictorian for Dean Tech.



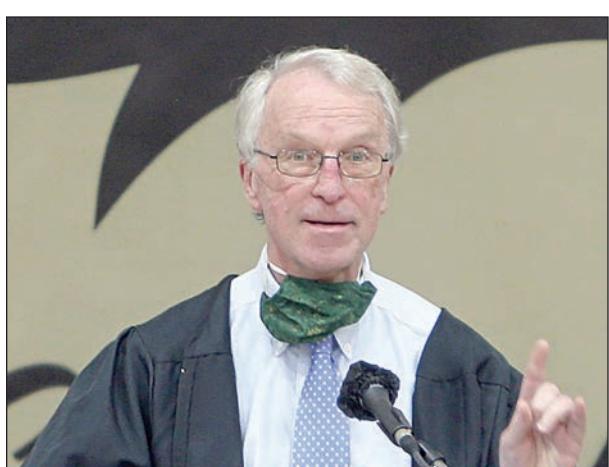
Salutatorian Yazmine Rodriguez speaks the ceremony.



Graduates Carlos Almestica, Luis Rodriguez, and Moses Oquendo.



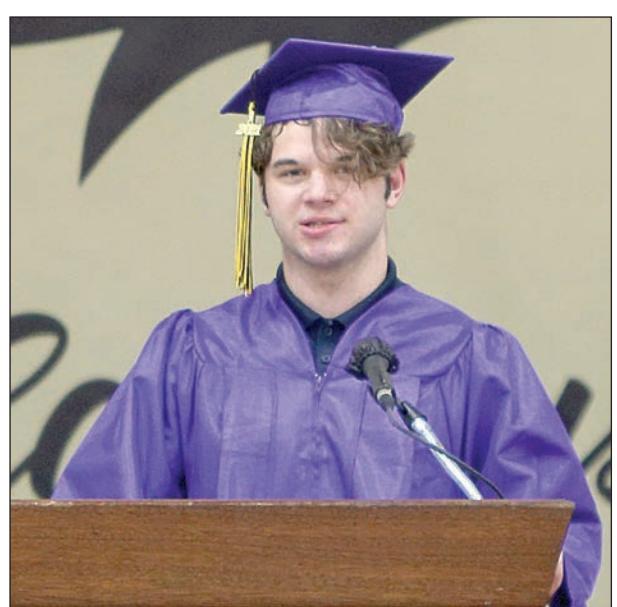
The Dean Tech graduation ceremony gets going with the entrance way set.



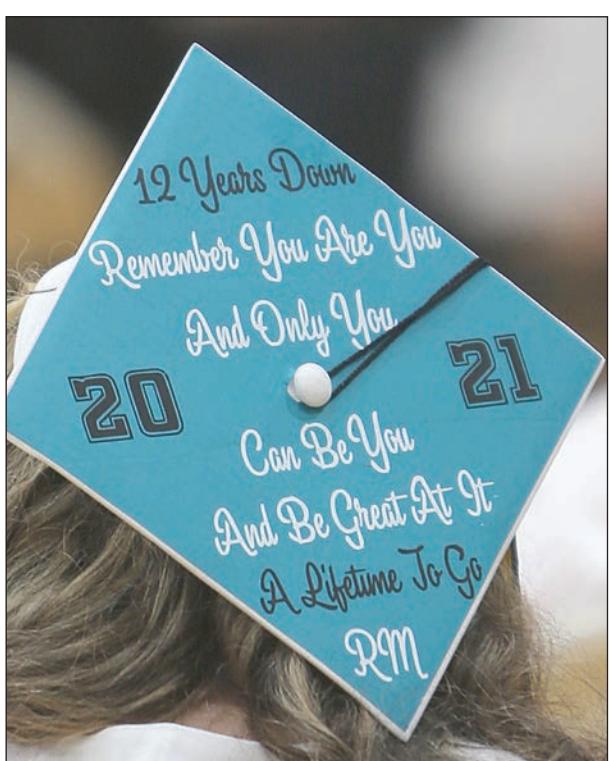
Acting Mayor Terence Murphy speaks at the Dean Tech ceremony.



Acting Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto gives a speech.
Soto is a Dean Tech graduate.



Perseverance speaker Damian Grise gives his speech.



Per tradition now, caps were decorated for the event.



Social distancing was necessary for the indoor ceremony.

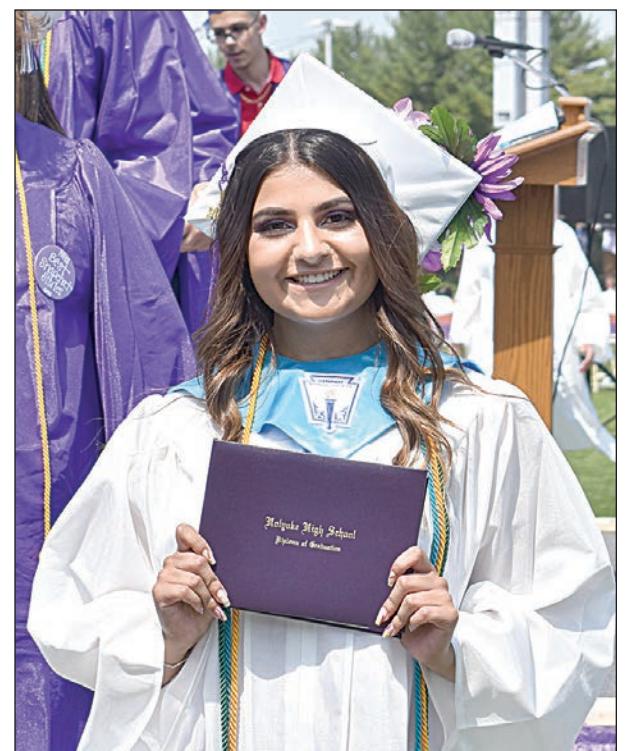
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



From left, Salutatorian Naressa Kempadoo and Valedictorian Kara McGuinness walk to the podium for their speeches.



Nisha Tabin shows off her diploma.



Holyoke High School North Campus Seniors walk on to the football field for the Graduation Ceremony.



Photos by Shelby Macri



The Class of 2021 sits through the heat and speeches for their diplomas.



The Holyoke High School North Campus Class of 2021.



Senior Adriel Berrios sings the senior song "For Forever."



From left; Anthony Soto, Lori McKenna, Naressa Kempadoo, and Kara McGuinness share the stage.



Perseverance Speaker senior Shayleena Figueiroa speaks to the class of 2021 about pushing through the strange school year.



Holyoke High School North Campus Principal Lori McKenna gives a welcome and short speech to the graduates and attendees.



Acting Superintendent Anthony Soto gives a heartwarming speech on graduating from Holyoke, growing up in the town, and lessons he's learned from his son and this senior class.



Jonathan Baez Vargas smiles proudly with his diploma.



Brian Diaz smiles brightly after receiving his diploma.



Jocelyn DeJesus proudly shows off her diploma.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021



HCC, from page 1

mother told me all of my life, the world would be a better place."

Student speaker Tugce Kuruca, of Chicopee, from the class of 2021, talked about being an immigrant "from the slums" of Turkey who started high school in the U.S. without speaking any English. She started at HCC in the college's ESL program in 2017 and flourished thanks to the faculty and staff and her classmates.

"I can proudly say that I've created a strong family, not only within the ESL Program but also the Pathways Program, TRIO Student Support Services, the Green Key Honor Society and the Student Senate," Kuruca said. "Each of these programs played a crucial role in my academic success, and I would not be standing here today without their help."

Kuruca graduated with honors and her associate degree in liberal arts.

"I am so excited for the next step," she said. "I can't wait to transfer and then go to law school. It has always been a dream to become a lawyer and eventually a judge. I know I can do it, and I can make it because HCC prepared me very well."

"My fellow graduates, we made it," she said. "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we pulled through and showed the world that no obstacle can stand in the way of our success."

HCC's Commencement also included musical performances from Christian Santiago of Holyoke, from the Class of 2020, who played the cuatro (a four-string Latin American guitar); music major Chan Collins '21, who played Bach Suite #1 Prelude on cello; and the HCC College Chorale, singing "Oceans and Stars."

HHS, from page 1

noted by North Campus Principal Lori McKenna before she introduced the perseverance speaker Shayleena Figueroa.

In her speech Figueroa urged her fellow graduates to take safe risks, as she started doing in high school. The first safe risk being that she asked the superintendent to meet with the Student Advisory Group monthly so he had a chance to hear from the students.

Although Figueroa was nervous to request this of the superintendent, she got through it and he said yes allowing her vision to come true. She shares that it's important to take as many safe risks as possible; for her that included a summer job and going the Theater Company. Taking these safe risks and having them pay off has helped her in many ways and she's learned valuable lessons from her job and the Theater Company.

"I wrote this speech because I want the upcoming classes to realize high school is hard but you are strong and you can make it," Figueroa said. "Anything and everything is possible if you put your heart and mind to it. It may take a while to get there but it's totally worth it in the end."

Valedictorian Kara McGuinness and the Salutatorian Naressa Kempadoo both spoke briefly about the changes that COVID-19 and the pandemic brought to the academic school year.

"For two-and-a-half years we were walking down these halls without a care in the world, all we wanted was for that last bell to ring so we could go home," Kempadoo said. "Then one day the same bell did ring and we went home thinking we were getting a two-week vacation. Two weeks turned into a month, one month turned into two months, then all of a sudden two months turned into spending our senior year on Zoom."

Kempadoo mentions that these changes in their school career gave students a chance for personal growth as the world changed around them and things had to be done differently to keep people safe. While schooling went from remote to hybrid, to remote again; the staff worked hard to create a memorable senior year for the class. Kempadoo gave thanks to the staff members, par-

ents, administrators, and everyone that helped to create a unique and celebratory year amongst the global pandemic. McGuinness had a similar message in her speech which outlined the old saying of life being about the journey rather than the destination.

"Well for our class the journal of high school was completely unpredictable and finally making it to our destination of graduation is that much more rewarding," McGuinness said. "Now I'm not going to give the whole spiel about how resilient we have all been throughout this journey because I think all of us have heard that phrase enough to last a lifetime. What I will say is that it is okay if you don't feel like you have been resilient this past year. We've all been told we should be excited for the things we were given, but it's okay to mourn the things you've looked forward since childhood and never got to experience."

She said it's okay to mourn the things the class of 2021 missed but that the world had political change to deal with among the pandemic.

McGuinness mentioned that the current political divisions and the racial violence is something that McGuinness don't want to have return to normal. She mentions that we as a people can heal and move on for this but we must not forget the unity, advocacy, and empathy of the community.

McGuinness said that while the class steps into the adult word and new normal it's the classes responsibility to step forward bravely and work to create a more compassionate society. She encourages fellow seniors to take all the lessons they've learned and apply them to the new times and new normal.

Principal McKenna gave a short speech to the class she's grown with of the last few years before setting up to call their names and give them their much-earned diploma. After students received their diploma's and turned their tassels, some eagerly threw their caps in the sky while others rushed to meet up with family on and around the track. The graduation ceremony was filmed and is available to watch on Holyoke Media's website Boxcast, people can find the ceremony video here <https://boxcast.tv/channel/ja5gitxp5jbuywlacgzd>

Congratulations to
Jared Ramraykha and Nisha Tabin
Class of 2021

Jared is a graduate of Holyoke Community College with an Associate Degree in Computer User Support.
Nisha is a graduate of Holyoke High School.

Now that you have both completed some of your educational journey in good standing. It is time to further your education by setting goals and committing to them with dedication, determination, and concentration. Also, remember to leave room for the enjoyment of the sports you both adore and play.

Jared continue to play soccer and cricket
and Nisha continue to play soccer.

Stay focused, best wishes, and good luck.
From your Proud and Loving Grandparents
Errol & Doreen Bahadur

The Bresnahan Insurance Family Congratulates the Class of 2021!



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- David McCullough, Jr.

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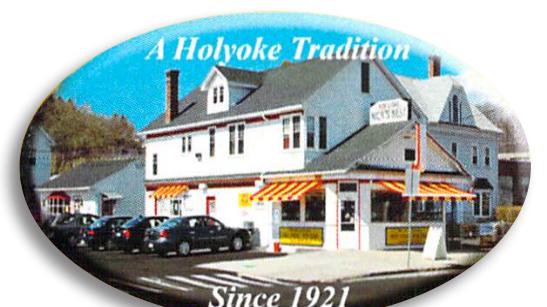
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Aponte, Erick M
Aponte, Issac J
Arzola, Luis D
Authier, Samantha R
Aviles Matos, Edwin F
Ayala Lebron, Alondra L
Ayers, Jacob William
Baez Vargas, Jonathan O
Baez-Semidei, Jared A
Baez, Roselyn
Barkyoumb, Tanner O
Bermudez, Elijah F
Berrios, Adriel T
Berthiaume-Denette, Juliana
Betancourt Rios, Gabriela
Bishop, Kaylee S
Blakeslee, Evan R
Bonilla, Ashanty D
Bonilla, Brisell F
Bonnett, Adrianna G
Bowie, Nathan A
Brainard, Paige E
Bula, Kaitlyn A
Burgos, Jeanette A
Caballero, Idalis M
Castro Colon, Jean M
Castro, Brandon L
Cavanaugh, Kyle C
Chavez, Lakeysha T
Claudio, Carlos N
Clausen, Aristotle L
Collazo, Daevon M
Collins-Figueroa, Shayleena M
Colon, Adriana G
Colon, Jose L
Colon, Mara L
Colon, Marisol
Colon, Rosalia Blanca
Colon Curet, Elizabeth
Concepcion, Jacob M
Cortes Rodriguez, Herick A
Cotto, Sebastian A
Crespo Feliciano, Alejandro
Crigger, Tyler G
Cruz Reyes, Jahdiel J
Cruz Reyes, Janiel N
Cruz, Jayden E
Cruz, Jordan R
Cruz, William J

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Davila, Anton G
Degon, Kira M
DeJesus, Jocelyn M
DeJesus Franco, Nicole
DeLeon Carolina
Denoncourt, Michaela L
Deonarain, Aaron A
Diaz Moore, Marco A
Diaz-Caraballo, Kenysha M
Diaz, Brian Y
Diaz, Prince D
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Escobar Nevarez, Edison M
Espinoza, Rodrigo E
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Feliciano, Natalia
Feliciano Arzuaga, Bryan O
Fernandez, Shantel M
Fernandez, Yariza E
Figueroa Alvarez, Cristal M
Figueroa, Jose L
Figueroa, Wilnely M
Finn, Jamie M
Fitzpatrick, Ariana M
Fontaine Dulude, Matthew J
Fournier, Eric D
Fox, Aidan T
Freeman, Jade A
Gamble, Nijah A
Garbiel-Achorn, Isabella P
Garcia Ayala, Faviola N
Garcia Quinones, Isaac J
Giguere, Ryli J
Godet, Kyle E
Gomez, Briana A
Gomez, Juan A
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Gonzalez, Devin C
Gonzalez, Joshawa A
Gutierrez, Felix
Gonzalez, Jessianya C
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Guzman-Rivera, Dylan
Hart, Brian J
Heredia, Jocelyn
Hernandez, Aliyah
Intriago Iriarry, Valery E
Johnson, Jeremiah X
Jordan, Laila M
Jourdain, Kevin A
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Keitt, Nathaniel A
Kempadoo, Naressa

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Ladriye, Anthony Josiah
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Reyes, Veronica
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Rivera Angeline
Rivera, Anthony
Rivera, Dalein
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Rivera, Genesis T
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Rodriguez, Diamond A
Rodriguez, Estevan
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Rodriguez, Iz-ahia D
Rodriguez, Jaden T
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Rodriguez, Zelia E
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Vazquez, Nathaliemalee
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Vega, Tatiana E
Velazquez, Nilmarie
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Vellon, Jose E
Ventura, Mercedes A
Villegas, Jonah A
Villegas, Zachary N
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Welch, Alexis V
Westry, Manuel O
Wresien, Lauryn K
Yates, Nathan T
Young, Sabrina M

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Yelmarie L. Lopez
Tainali Morales
Hector A. Cora Ramos
Janice Rodriguez Rodriguez
Juan Lleras Roman
Markiyan Yuzych

Carpentry

Rebeca Santiago
Esmurria Cosmetology
Suheily Calderon
Jesus A. Rosario
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Melanie A. Castro
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Alicea Glendalys Colon
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Jesus Aviles Velez
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Ayannah J. Cruz
Ashanti Ridley
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Luis O. Rodriguez

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Christopher Sorge

Local students graduate from AIC

SPRINGFIELD — American International College awarded degrees to 232 undergraduate students representing 12 foreign countries, in addition to 18 states and Puerto Rico this May. Congratulations to these dedicated, newly-minted graduates. Holyoke residents receiving degrees include: Karyann Cruz, Zachary Laroche, Calisha Lopez, Musashi Tajima, and Kendrick Torres Rodriguez.



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Jomar Colon Lanasusse sends a hit toward the net.



Jairam Rodriguez Calderon gets the backwards bump.



Willie Lopez Morales sets up a spike.



Julia Gutierrez Rodriguez serves for the Knights.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

League rivals renew acquaintances

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—After the 2020 high school boys volleyball season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ware head coach Steve Jarvis and Holyoke head coach Paula Conway are very happy to be coaching their teams again this spring.

Ware, who suffered a 3-0 loss at Holyoke High School on May 19, made another trip to John ‘Jinx’ O’Connor Gymnasium last Wednesday afternoon. The Indians won the opening game

in the second meeting, but the Purple Knights prevailed in the next three games and celebrated a 3-1 victory (18-25, 25-21, 25-18, 25-18) in the South Division match.

“We’ve been playing Ware for many years and it has always a very good match between the two teams,” said Conway, who also coaches the Holyoke girls’ volleyball team in the fall. “This was a back-and-forth match today. We just made a couple of adjustments after losing the opening game. Everyone

See VOLLEYBALL, page 13



Lewis Torres Soler spikes over the net.

Pioneers continue win streak with shutout



Patrick Agyemang heads toward the sideline for the Pioneers.



Marco Valero Perez sends a quick pass away.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – It has been three years since an opposing USL League Two soccer team walked into Lusitano Stadium and defeated the Western Mass. Pioneers.

FC Malaga City made their first ever visit to the 103-year-old only soccer specific stadium in New England last Friday night, and it was a long trip back to Lagrangeville, New York for them.

The Pioneers, who scored three first half goals and added another one with the help of a Malaga City player, coasted to a 4-0 victory before a large crowd on a beautiful late spring evening.

See PIONEERS, page 13

Perry, Byrne gets wins at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Nutmeg State teen Jacob Perry copped the biggest prize Saturday, June 5, at Monadnock Speedway, winning the 100-lap Modified Racing Series main event while, on the same card, three other drivers earned their first victory lap of the summer.

NH STRA Modified strongman Ben Byrne won his 40-lap feature, Justin Littlewood stormed to victory in the Late Model Sportsman, and Jake Bosse, who started the season as a Young Gun, earned his career-first Pure Stock win.

Mini Stock ace Gordon Farnum soared into the points

lead with his second 2021 feature win, while Street Stocker Tommy O’Sullivan and Young Gun Fast Eddie Petruskevicius also won for the second time.

Hometrack hot shoe Kirk Alexander – he of 31 MRS feature victories – started on row one in the night’s main event, taking the lead from polesitter Ryan Doucette on lap four and then setting his sights on duplicating his victory of 18 years ago when the Series debuted here on the high banks.

Russ Hersey would reel Alexander in and for a while

See RACING, page 13

VOLLEYBALL, from page 12

played well."

Because of COVID rules, no spectators could attend the first two meetings of the regular season between Ware and Holyoke.

The Purple Knights, who lost their first match of the season at Southwick, 3-2, on May 21, had a 6-1 overall record following the second meeting of the regular season against the Indians.

"We didn't get to play any matches last year," Conway said. "It doesn't really matter if we have a 6-1 record or a 1-6 record because the most important thing to me is the kids are having fun playing volleyball again."

Five of the nine players listed on

the Holyoke roster are first-year members of the team. The five newcomers are senior Nathan Bowie, junior Jomar Colon, sophomore Willie Lopez, freshman Jeduar Colon, and freshman Jomar Gonzalez. Their four returning players are senior Lewis Torres, junior Jairam Rodriguez, senior Julian Gutierrez, and senior Edison Nevarez.

The setback evened the Indians season record at 4-4.

"We're a young team this year. I really missed coaching these guys last year," said Jarvis, who also coaches the girls' varsity volleyball team at Ludlow High School. "My seniors are just learning how to wrist snap the ball, which they should've learned last year. We've been improving in every match that we've played so far this season. We did

play well in the opening game of today's match."

The four seniors listed on the Ware roster are Alexander Cabrera, Vincent Chiaravalle, Myles McGrail, and Jack Tweedie.

While Holyoke doesn't have a junior varsity team, the Indians j.v. squad is made up of seventh and eighth graders.

"Our j.v. team will only be playing four matches this year," Jarvis said. "We do bring the j.v. players with us to our road matches, so they can watch the varsity team play."

The Indians, who held a slim 10-9 lead in the opening game, managed to pull away with the help of a 7-0 run. Junior Matt Foran handled the serving duties during that span.

Back-to-back kills by McGrail,

who's a lefty, increased the Indians lead to 17-9.

The visitors, who led by as many as nine points, closed out the opening game with another kill by junior Michael Polak.

The Indians had an 8-4 lead in the second game before the Purple Knights battled back with a 5-0 run to take a one-point lead. Torres did the serving during that run.

The score was tied 13-13 before the home team took the lead for good tying the match at 1-1.

Holyoke held the lead for the majority of the next two games and were able to get back into the win column again.

The Indians are schedule to host the Purple Knights for the first time on June 8.

PIONEERS, from page 12

"We scored a few early goals in tonight's game, which really helped us," said Pioneer's head coach Federico Molinari. "We always seem to play with a lot more confidence at home."

The Pioneers (4-1-1) played four of their five regular season matches on the road. The players were excited to be playing in front of their faithful supporters again.

"This is by far the best stadium and the best fans in our league," said starting forward Ignacio Lerech, who scored a goal and added an assist in the Pioneers first home win of the season. "I've played for two other USL-Two teams, but this team is like one big family. I'm very happy to be playing here this year."

Lerech, who's from Tucuman, Argentina, has scored a team-leading three goals this season.

When the Pioneers and Malaga City (1-4-1) faced each other for the first time on May 15, Lerech came off the bench and scored a late goal giving the Pioneers a 1-0 road win.

"That was my first game playing for this team and when I scored that goal late in the game, it was just an amazing feeling," said Lerech, who also scored a goal in a 2-0 win at AC Connecticut. "I just want to help my team win anyway that I can."

Another first-year Pioneers player is Patrick Agyemang, who scored his first goal of the season in the home opener against the Seacoast United Phantoms, which ended in a 1-1 draw on May 21.

Agyemang scored his second goal at Lusitano Stadium during the fifth minute

of last Friday's match.

The scoring play began with Lerech sending a crossing pass to Agyemang on the right side. He then sprinted towards the goal before firing a low shot into the left corner past goalie Daniel Atherton.

"It was a great feeling scoring a goal in front of the home fans," said Agyemang, who's from East Hartford, Conn. "We played with a lot of energy right from the start of tonight's game. We also have a lot of depth, which is very important."

The Pioneers managed to post their third shutout of the season without two key starters. Maxi Viera, who's the Pioneers captain, and Connor Hicks, who's from Monson, sat out the second home match of the season with injuries.

Agyemang and Lerech have built a good chemistry during the first six matches of the season.

"Ignacio and I have been working together at practice. The hard work paid off for us in tonight's game," Agyemang said. "We're starting to gel as a team."

A couple of minutes later, the Pioneers took a 2-0 lead when the ball deflected off a Malaga City defender into the net for an own goal.

During the 26th minute, Lerech received a pass from defender Carlos Emery and chipped a shot over two defenders into the left corner of the net increasing the Pioneers lead to 3-0.

With less than five minutes remaining in the opening half, Agyemang sent a pass from the left end line into the box where defender Jordan Koduak knocked the ball into the back of the net giving the home team a commanding 4-0 lead.

It was Koduak's second goal of the season.



Carlos Emery attempts to balance the ball after receiving a pass.



Declan Sung goes after a 50/50 ball.
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

"It's always nice to have a 4-0 half-time lead," Molinari said. "You do have to worry about your team relaxing a little bit in the second half with a big lead. We just need to keep improving in every game."

Down at the other end of the field, Blake Mullen didn't have to make any saves in recording his third shutout of the season.

The dynamic duo of Agyemang and Lerech were replaced by Guillermo Deal and Khalid Rose twenty minutes into the second half.

With ten minutes remaining in regulation, Evan Fournier, who graduat-

ed from Belchertown High School in 2019, made his first appearance for the Pioneers at Lusitano Stadium. His only shot attempt of match sailed over the crossbar.

"Evan has been on our roster since the beginning of the regular season. We were able to give him the opportunity to get some playing time during the second half of tonight's game," Molinari said. "It's always nice to have the local soccer players on your team."

The Pioneers will be looking to continue their winning ways at Lusitano Stadium when they host AC Connecticut at 7:30 on Friday night.

RACING, from page 12

it seemed like old home day in the Milton Cat 100. The kid from Connecticut, though, Jacob Perry, had other ideas, taking charge just past mid-race and then leading open-wheel stalwarts Tommy Barrett and Ronnie Williams under the checkers. Hometracker Matt Kimball came home fourth, and Alexander rounded out the top five.

Ben Byrne took control of the NHSTRA Modified main on lap three and never looked back. This was a wild one. Matt Kimball claimed the deuce, while Trevor Bleau marched forward twice to come home third aboard the Gomarlo 76 ride.

Aaron Fellows, like Bleau, recovered from earlier excitement to come home fourth. Kimmy Rivet was fifth, while points leader Todd Patnode was bounced

around for 13th on the night.

Brelio's strong run netted him runner-up honors, while youthful strongman Cam Curtis struggled with tire issues all night before claiming third when Robert Hagar, Ryan Currier, and Hayden Scott finished the show in a turn-two heap.

Tommy O'Sullivan charged from row six in the Street Stock main to take charge on lap 14 and then storm away to duplicate his opening night feature win. Strong and steady Paul Smith was the silver medallist, Nate Wenzel came home third, while points leader Chris Buffone struggled in tenth.

Mini Stock musclemen Gordon Farnum and Ray King started side-by-side again, this week firing from row four. Farnum took the lead from Kevin Clayton and blasted off to his second win of the summer and, with it, passed King for the points lead.

Clayton completed his rock-solid outing in second, with potent Kevin Cormier coming home third.

Just three weeks ago, Jake Bosse was just a kid winning a couple of Young Guns features.

Saturday, the Greenfield, N.H. youth speedster took the Pure Stock lead from Cory Lofland on lap two and sped away to his career-first win, keeping 50-years-young star Chris Davis in his shadow the final 11 laps. JD Stockwell was strong in third.

Fast Eddie Petruskevicious led all the way in the caution-free Young Guns 15. He was joined in trophy row by Teagan Edson and Leilei Daniels.

Next Saturday, June 12, the NHSTRA Modifieds will run twin 35-lap Quest For The Cup events atop a full card of racing at Monadnock Speedway. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

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NHSTRA MODIFIEDS: Ben Byrne, Matthew Kimball, Trevor Bleau, Aaron Fellows, Kimberley Rivet, Cory Plummer, Christopher Jackman, Eric LeClair, Kirby Goodrich, Tyler Leary, Scott MacMichael,

44-Brian Chapin, Todd Patnode, Solomon Brow, Cameron Sontag, Dave Salzarulo, James Cloutier, Cameron Houle.

LATE MODEL SPORTSMEN (UNOFFICIAL): Justin Littlewood, Austin Brelio, Camdyn Curtis, Chase Curtis, Dan Comeau, Ryan Currier, Hayden Scott, Robert Hagar, Cole Littlewood, Nancy Muni Ruot.

STREET STOCKS: Tommy O'Sullivan, Paul Smith, Nathan Wenzel, Jason Kozacka, Hillary Renaud, Mike Radzuik, Greg Williams, Chris Lindquist, Joe Arena, Chris Buffone, Keith Johnson, Nathaniel Nunez, Timothy Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Leighton Lutz.

MINI STOCKS: Gordon Farnum, Kevin Clayton, Kevin Cormier, Louie Maher, Jeff Asselin, Kevin McKnight, Jake Puchalski, Ricky Whipple, Josh Hubbard, Bill Chaffee,

Jeff Heath, Matthew Lambert, Raymond King, Deion Russell, (DNS) Tim LeBlanc,

(DNS) Michael Douglas

PURE STOCKS: Jake Bosse, Chris Davis, JD Stockwell, Cory Lofland, Jason LeRay, Jimmy Zellman, Nick Houle, Carter Chamberlin, Billy Graham, Ryan Lawless, Damien Houle, Kyle Robinson Newell, (DNS) Nathan Roy.

YOUNG GUNS: Eddie Petruskevicious, Teagan Edson, Leilei Daniels, Eddie Gomarlo, Jeff Moffat Jr., Aaliyah Tacy, Dominick Stafford.



Ben Bryne was a winner in the 40-lap event at Monadnock last weekend.
Submitted photo

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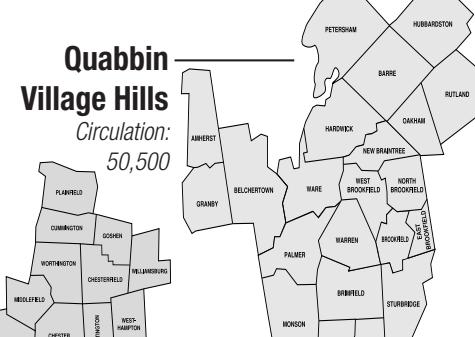
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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

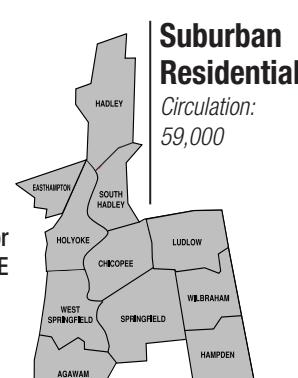
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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**



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GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 2 BR apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$925/mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom 413-896-1555

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT


All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (status of children and/or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

Public Notices

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear an amendment to a Special Permit Application of Rise Holdings, Inc for a Marijuana Manufacturing Establishment (MME) at 28 Appleton St (032-01-001) for expansion of the MME in the existing building. Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 9248 5657 Meeting Passcode: 013164 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair,
Rebecca Lisi

06/04, 06/11/2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a Special Permit Application of Rise Holdings, Inc for a Marijuana Manufacturing Establishment (MME) at 100 Water St (048-01-005) to site and operate an MME in existing buildings 3, 4, and 5. Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 9248 5657 Meeting Passcode: 013164 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair,
Rebecca Lisi

06/04, 06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court Docket No. HD21P1004PM

In the matter of:
Kim M Bey
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Holyoke Medical Center of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Kim M Bey** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Kelly Ambrogio of West Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/25/2021**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance by the return date, but a deadline date by which you must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this

proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2021

Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate

06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P0906EA

Estate of:

Richard M Doty

Date of Death: 03/10/2021

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Kelly Sturmthal of Jupiter, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kelly Sturmthal** of Jupiter, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/22/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance

and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 25, 2021

Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate

06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21 C0112CA

In the matter of:

Leisa Stanley Fox

aka: Lisa Kerr Stanley

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Leisa Stanley Fox, aka: Lisa Kerr Stanley** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Leisa Stanley Fox

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2021**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition.

This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 02, 2021

Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate

06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD21P1005GD

In the matter of:

Kim M Bey

Of: Holyoke, MA

RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

CITATION GIVING

NOTICE OF PETITION

FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON

PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Holyoke Medical Center of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Kim M Bey** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Cynthia Pulowski of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve

Library to re-open with restrictions in place

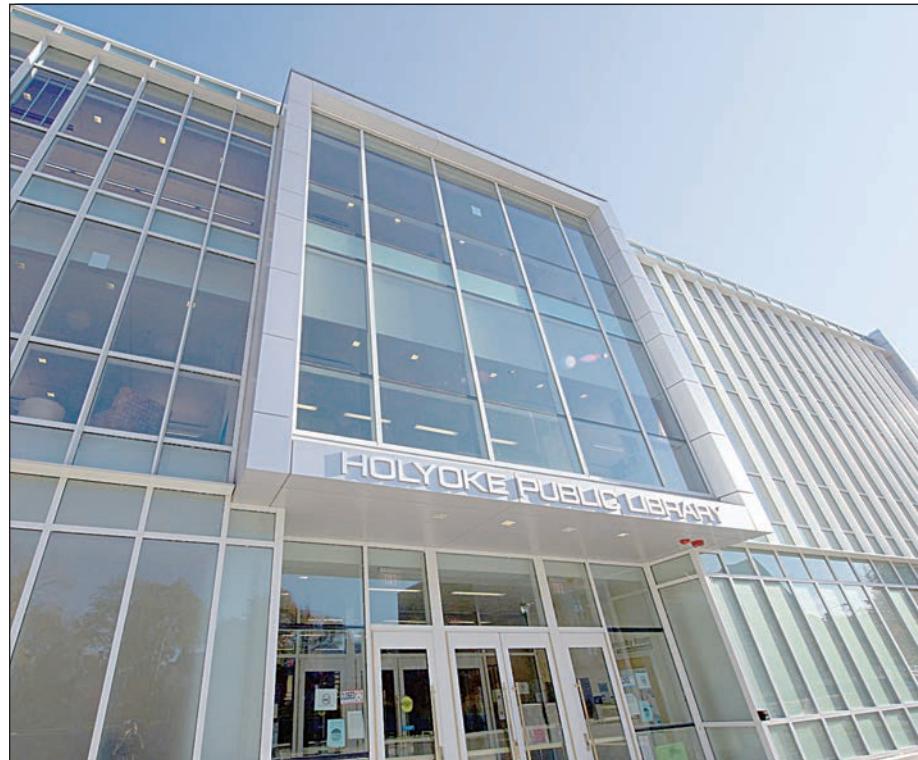
HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library is pleased to announce that its doors will reopen to the public June 14. Library users will have a choice to enter the library to select/pick up library items or continue using curbside services and online resources.

Safety is not negotiable...The Holyoke Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and comfortable environment for all patrons and staff – including patrons under 15 years of age and those that are not vaccinated or with health risks. For the safety of staff and the public, face masks covering the mouth and nose will be required for those 5 years and older for entry. For those who are not ready to visit inside and those who cannot or choose not to wear a face mask over the mouth and nose, we encourage you to continue using our online resources and our Curbside services.

We will begin providing limited in-person services to “Grab & Go” -- browsing and checkout, photocopying and faxing -- while still implementing safety measures for staff and the public.

Not all services will be available at this time, but will be phased in as local conditions and guidelines permit.

- In-person Library programs will be limited, as well as the size of groups attending.
- The Holyoke History Room will not be open for in-person visits.
- Public seating and restrooms will not be available.
- Public computers will not be available and computer tutoring will not be scheduled.



- Non-library meetings will not be booked or held at this time.

The Holyoke Public Library will be open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for

- In-Person browsing & checkout
- Photocopying and faxing
- Curbside services

Per Board of Health recommendations, visitors will register at the entrance for contact tracing purposes. Please have your library card with you if

you are planning on entering the library to register and to use self-check-out service.

Children under 15 must be with a supervising adult while in the building and on library grounds. Due to concern for public and staff safety, there will be limited occupancy in certain areas in the library, please make visits as brief as possible - no more than 30 minutes.

Visitors are encouraged to return library items using the book drops. We encourage the public to have their library card at hand when entering the library.

To enter the library, visitors will:

- Need to have face masks on
- Return library items at outside or inside book drop.
- Enter through the automated door (on the left of the building) and exit the building using the not automated door on the other side.
- Scan library card for contact tracing purposes; if no library cards, visitors will need to sign in.

While in the library

- Visitors are encouraged to keep physical distance when possible.
- Children's Room will limit visits to 15 people at once. Visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).
- Teen's room will limit visits to 4 people at once. Visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).
- Reference Room visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).
- Computer and History Rooms will be closed until further notice.

Checking out procedure

- Staff will be available to assist with self-check-out
- If checking out books, visitors will be encouraged to use self-check-out.
- If checking out Audio-Visual, visitors will go to front desk.
- If visitors do not have their library cards, they will need to go to the front desk and provide identification

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